

# Hawaiian Gazette

EST. MODUS IN REBUS.

## TEN-PAGE EDITION.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1890.

A LETTER in the Bulletin of March 12th, shows how sore a subject the Samoan embassy is to the principal actor in it. This is gratifying. A little anguish of mind on the subject may even lead to repentance.

The chronic growlers at the Honolulu police would be silenced forever if they could have seen the zeal and skill with which a large detachment of the force, assisted by a volunteer body of good citizens, captured and arrested two stray pigs on Friday in front of the Police Station.

### OUR STREETS.

The rain gauges register a total of nearly ten inches since the 1st of March. With such a steady down-pour, it is no miracle if the condition of some of the streets should be anything but satisfactory. Beretania street is a succession of impassable sloughs and standing pools. The growth of the city has run far ahead of the resources of the public purse, and has made demands on the funds which the appropriations could not possibly meet. Neither have the funds actually available always been wisely expended. Undoubtedly some serious blunders have been made.

Road making is an art, demanding special technical instruction and training. It is not something for amateurs to play at, and as long as a country is compelled to put its work of this kind into amateur hands, just so long will its public thoroughfares fail to give complete satisfaction.

### TREATY MATTERS.

Private advices from Washington indicate that the efforts of the National Reform party to break up any possibility of a new treaty with the United States Government have been completely successful.

This result doubtless gratifies and warms the National Reform heart. It is now in order for the party to go in and carry out the rest of its promises by securing from Germany, England, Italy, etc. (not forgetting Portugal, of course), the joint guarantee of our independence. It might not be amiss to include Greenland and Patagonia, to make our liberties finally safe.

There is a saying that fine words butter no parsnips, but we earnestly hope it may prove otherwise here, so that when the United States abrogate the treaty in 1894, workingmen and others may be able to derive a little nourishment from the bland assurances of the joint guarantee.

### THE TWO CANALS.

The Board of French Engineers which was sent to Panama to investigate the Panama Canal has by the latest advices returned to New York. Nothing of a precise nature can be known of their report until after they reach Paris, but the reports which reach us last mail seem to be confirmed, as it is well understood that they will advise against any attempt to re-open the work.

This means that the seven hundred million francs which the French people have been induced to invest in the enterprise by their faith in De Lesseps, are gone forever, and not a centime of it will ever be fished up again.

Work on the Nicaragua Canal it is said is progressing steadily. It is safe to assume that ships will soon be sailing through the American continent, and we here at these Islands will have cable news of it. The business of our government and legislature is to make such preparations as will enable us to take advantage of both great events.

### KING MALIETOA.

There is excitement in Samoa, and a little of it has reached us. It appears that His Majesty the King of Samoa, regards Hawaiians as hardly less noxious and mischievous than John Chinaman himself. The exclusion Act is extended to cover the former as well as the latter.

What the motive of this most unkind cut may be, we are left to surmise. We suspect it is partly due to a nightmare reminiscence of the former visit of our beloved brother, Elder Scrub. News has perhaps

reached the South Pacific of the electoral "confusion in our little Isle," and Malietoa, King of Samoa, could not sleep nights for fear of a possible renewal of a Samoan embassy here if possible than the first.

These fears on the part of King Malietoa are perhaps not well grounded, but they are natural and excusable. In the meanwhile, the hardship of Hawaiian exclusion is there. Some remedy ought to be devised.

Let Mr. John E. Bash, ex-Minister Plenipotentiary to Samoa, put himself under heavy bonds never to go back there, no matter how much he may long for another good spree. This will soften Malietoa's obdurate heart, if anything can.

### MR. KINNEY AND THE BULLETIN.

About a week since, in an article which we have already had occasion to notice the Bulletin took occasion to make a savage attack on Mr. Kinney. The charge made is so unjust and so ill-founded, that it would hardly seem worth while to notice it at all, were it not that the public is apt to be hasty and indiscriminate in its judgments and take anything it sees in print for truth.

The charge made and repeated ad nauseam against Mr. Kinney is simply that he led an agitation on the Chinese question during which his hostility to the planters and others influential in the Reform party was pronounced, and that in spite of this he was found a few months later working shoulder to shoulder with the very planters and plutocrats whom he had denounced, and who in turn had showered maledictions without number upon him. Malice gives this the air of political inconsistency and of an abandonment of workingmen's interests.

If the truth be told Mr. Kinney was never so thoroughly consistent, never so truly the workingman's friend as when he took his stand in the late campaign. The agitation of which he had been the leader in the summer, had been brought to a successful issue. The Reform party through the ministry and in its platform had pledged itself unequivocally to carry out the specific legislation which has been asked. The planters had been compelled to yield, whether they liked it or not. The crusade had succeeded as thoroughly as the circumstances would admit, the public sentiment had been brought to the point of recognizing the necessity for prompt and decided action.

Mr. Kinney took the field in favor of the Reform party, not merely for the reasons already indicated, but because that party was endeavoring to secure closer commercial relations with the United States. He recognized, as every thinking man must recognize, the fact that the prosperity of the workingman is more absolutely dependent on the continuance of the Treaty than that of any other class, more than that of the planters themselves. If the Treaty goes, if the Tariff is wiped out, the white workingmen of these Islands will be wiped out too, so quickly and thoroughly that they will leave no trace. But the planter will still go on, with the cheap coolie labor which Asia is waiting to send us, in numbers like the sands of the seashore.

Mechanics and others at the recent election, let themselves be led gently by the nose by such men as Mr. Crowley, stupidly ignoring their own most precious interests, their own preservation in short, and voting to cut their own throats. They did not see that they had anything to gain or lose by the Treaty. They thought perhaps that the planters were the persons chiefly if not entirely concerned. They were indifferent or hostile to the attempt of the present Government to enter into closer relations with the United States, and did not seem to care whether that country gave us any special advantages or not.

Whatever may be said of the wisdom or unwisdom of the mechanics attitude, it cannot be denied that their interests are mostly intimately bound up with the fate of the Treaty. This is a subject the importance of which cannot easily be overestimated. It was not overestimated during the late campaign. Closer treaty relations with the United States with an agreement that our sugar should be placed on the same basis as those raised in America, would have been a priceless boon for this kingdom. Such a treaty would have amounted to a permanent guarantee of our commercial prosperity. Will anyone answer and say who had a deeper interest in the matter than the workingman? No one, and everyone promoting this treaty was a champion of the workingman's cause.

### THE SUGAR QUESTION.

The bitter war between the Sugar Trust and the Courts is still going on with results more and more unfavorable for the Trust. The American Refinery is closed and in the hands of a receiver, and Claus Spreckels at present seems to be having things all his own way.

Affairs are threatening at Washington. It is said that the Ways and Means Committee of the House is bent on reducing the revenue by twenty millions and that they wish to do it by taking the entire duty on sugar. This is contrary to the holy Republican principle of protection to the sacred rights of rich manufacturers, and in deference to these rights, the committee is disposed to be contented with a reduction for the present of twenty per cent.

It is utterly impossible to say what the outcome will be. House committees are uncertain affairs—liable to all kinds of outside pressure and very apt to yield to it. There is no doubt that a strong fight for the tariff will be made before the committee. On the other hand, it should not be forgotten that the principle gainers by the tariff are Democrats, and this is a circumstance sure to weigh heavily with a committee the majority of whom are Republicans.

One thing is sure. Soon or late the reduction in the tariff is sure to come. In spite of the result of the recent election there is no doubt that a majority of the people generally demand it, and the Republican leaders themselves admit that some tariff revision is a necessity. The ultimate anxiety of the Republicans is not to prevent revision altogether, but to keep it out of the hands of the Democrats. Sugar is a good thing to begin the reduction on—so good in fact that Republicans probably hope to be able to make their tariff revision begin and end with it. Their monstrously extravagant naval estimates will do much to help them out of their financial difficulties. The duty on sugar yields the United States a revenue of over \$50,000,000 a year, and if it were wiped out or even reduced 50 per cent. there would be nothing to hinder the rich manufacturers of the North from leading a life of quiet, undisturbed by tariffs and rumors of tariffs for years to come.

The duty on sugar has a strong enemy in both parties. The Democratic party, as the low tariff party, is opposed to the high duty on principle. The Republicans, though a high tariff party, are equally opposed to it, because they are forced to make a reduction somewhere, and it is easiest to make it on sugar than on anything else. It is easy to see that between the two the tariff is between the devil and the deep sea. A reduction of from 25 per cent. all the way up to a complete abolition, may be counted on as one of the certainties of the near future. If this sure result is temporarily postponed, and the tariff saved it will be the result not of public sentiment, not of wise statesmanship, but of lobbying at Washington.

If there is any likelihood in the foregoing forecast, it seems somewhat strange that people should be rushing so eagerly into sugar, starting or projecting new plantations on Hawaii, Oahu, Kauai, when any year may bring a drop in the price of the commodity of from twenty to forty dollars a ton. It seems strange that capitalists should still pour their millions into this one channel, and be so unwilling to divert even a few scant thousands into some new enterprise to furnish sustenance and opportunity if ever the hour of disaster should come. These are the days of our prosperity—of a prosperity otherwise unknown in our brief history, and they are the days of golden opportunity, an opportunity which may never smile and beckon so auspiciously again.

Patriotism and self-interest alike dictate the use of the present both for judicious experiment in new enterprises, and in efforts to put the old on a more satisfactory basis.

### THE SUGAR TARIFF.

The ADVERTISER editorial on the sugar tariff, elsewhere, has perhaps occasioned some misapprehension. We did not intend to imply that the prospects of the industry on these islands are on the whole unfavorable, but merely that they are not unclouded, and that the element of uncertainty which frightens investors away from new enterprises is present in the sugar business as well.

We believe firmly that the superiority of our climate and soil

amounts to a fair guarantee that sugar can continue to be raised in these islands at a profit, even if the United States do abolish the tariff altogether. At the same time it could not be cultivated on all the lands now devoted to that purpose. Some plantations would have to be abandoned, and the entire industry throughout the group would receive a severe blow.

The object of our article was not to depreciate the wisdom of investment in sugar, but to urge the pressing necessity of finding some other productive employment for capital. This is a subject so important that it cannot be pressed upon the public attention too often, no matter how tired of it some may be. The unjust judge yielded to continuous importunity, although he turned a deaf ear to the claims of reason and justice. On the same basis perhaps Hawaiian capitalists may be nagged into some agricultural experiments which may prove of value to the country at large and profitable to themselves.

The worst thing about a possible reduction of the tariff is that it threatens to entangle the country still more inextricably in the net of cheap labor in which it at present lies helpless. Sugar permanently at seventy or eighty dollars a ton may mean cheap labor—cheaper labor than ever, or starvation. If it does we may as well bid farewell to all prospect of civilization in this country. If the plantations go down in a lump there will be a levelling process which will effectually dispose of all our inequality. Those who have stock and those who have none will start together or both work their passages to the Coast. When the cry for cheap labor comes then, we shall have to open our doors, throw wide the flood gates to let in the Asiatic tide, whether we like it or not. With sugar at permanently low prices, and the capital of the country all locked up in plantations, the solution of the labor problem will come in short order. Unfortunately the solution will be the one we do not want. We want a settlement of the labor question which will make for civilization, for human progress, for the diffusion of Western ideas, ideals, and life. There was little use in bringing Christianity here, if a permanent civilization was not to follow it.

Whether the sea of barbarism which has so lately receded from these fair Islands is to invade and submerge them again or not, depends more than anyone else, upon the PLANTERS. A few years ago, they were swimming desperately in deep water, grasping at every straw, in the effort to keep their heads above the waves. All that is changed now. One turn of Fortune's wheel has made their debts into dividends. Riches bring tremendous power, and power brings with it serious duties and great obligations. The prosperity of the plantations has brought with it the power to solve the labor question, if any solution is possible at all. The Government is poor and has already more pressing claims upon its resources than it can possibly meet. There is little that the legislature can do unmistakably. The power and the duty (they imply each other) to make at least an earnest effort to solve the labor problem, lies with the planters.

### ABOUT REVOLUTIONS.

The Bulletin, in a late article, grants the ADVERTISER its scant meed of praise for advocating in a rare fit of candor political honesty. We are obliged to our contemporary for the character it gives us, but must take exception to the strange application which is made of our article. The Bulletin applies it to the late revolution which it seems to deplore as, to put it mildly, a case of doing evil that good may come. To this unexpected application, the ADVERTISER most earnestly demurs.

The right of revolution stands by itself—as something extreme, but morally justifiable and needing no palliation or excuse. A revolution is simply a re-appropriation of the sovereign rights which it delegates to governments indeed, but of which it never absolutely divests itself. Revolutions are never legal, of course, but when governments abuse their powers, and peaceful measures have failed, they are moral and right. There is no propriety whatever in classifying such assertions of popular sovereignty with the abuse of the ballot and other political corruption.

Neither are the parallels which the Bulletin draws from history valuable or confirmatory of its

peculiar views. The French revolution in particular, in spite of all its horrors and excesses has been an unspeakable blessing to mankind—and one of the most important episodes in the progress of human society. England, the home of temperate and conservative measures, and peaceful and constitutional reforms, has blocked the path of royal aggression and preserved its liberties by two revolutions.

Whether the late revolution in this kingdom was necessary is a question on which there can be no absolute unanimity of opinion. But there can be no doubt that it was a benefit and a great one. We believe as thoroughly as anyone in the preferability of peaceful means whenever such means are efficacious. But what has been won by force of arms we must be ready to maintain if necessary by the same instruments or there can be no public security.

The Bulletin's correspondents never seem to have any point to their communications. Slang and cuss words are all they generally contain.

### Picked Up at Sea.

Advices say that the American ship Joseph S. Spinney arrived at Hiogo, Japan, January 3d, with six Pelew Islanders, whom she had picked up in an open canoe over two hundred miles from land. November 23d, seven men and their old king set out to pay a visit to a chief on another island of the Pelew group. Their craft was a dugout, thirty feet long, with only fifteen inches beam. Before they could make their port of destination a gale sprang up and they were blown out to sea. They were without food or water for eighteen days. Before reaching Hiogo, the king and one other man died. The six survivors are somewhat larger than the Japanese, have coppery skins and long, flowing hair. They are tattooed from head to foot in gay colors. Their chief consolation is smoking. Each has a hole pierced in his ears in which he sticks his pipe when not in use. Captain Curling of the Spinney says the king each morning saluted him by rubbing his nose on the back of his hand. The problem is how to return them to their own country, where vessels rarely touch. Besides, they cannot tell the name of the island on which they lived.

The clergy of Derby, England, have decided not to accept any marriage fee, in the hope of checking the practice of civil marriages. They expect that their example will be followed by their brethren throughout England.

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